

Judge you to
Help Washington D.C. realize that America must invest and expand passenger rail.

One way to climb out of this recession is to create jobs. We can put America back to work and enhance our nation's infrastructure if we restore the North Coast Hiawatha passenger service. These are good jobs for Montanans ~~that~~ *+ they* can't be sent overseas.

Another way to end the recession is to compete economically on a global scale. A well-developed passenger rail system is good for business. ~~It promotes~~ *Supports* ~~the~~ *traded sector employment*

6 Key cities in Montana do not have access to passenger rail! Our major population centers: Billings, Livingston (a gateway to Yellowstone), Bozeman, Helena, Butte, and Missoula are without basic passenger rail service. Business opportunities are lost.

Tourism is a key source of revenue in Montana. 5 Ski Resorts could be served by restoring the North Coast Hiawatha line ~~to~~ generate year-round tourist revenue.

the often necessary
Winter driving is hazardous and stressful, particularly to an aging population that often has the money and the time, but not the inclination to drive in winter conditions. Passenger Rail ~~can~~ help re-connect families throughout the year.

Montana is the 4th largest state in the Union. Over 600 miles from east to west, it takes nearly 10 hours to cross Montana and we have just one line of passenger rail along the high line. The Empire Builder plays a key role in the economy of the High Line. Restoring the North Coast Hiawatha line can do the same for Montana's southern communities.

Rail is friendly to the environment. With ~~the~~ ever rising prices of fuel, rising global demand, and the volatility of foreign oil supplies, America needs alternatives to automobile travel. We must decrease our dependency on foreign oil.

We have never led the world in terms of population. The U.S. ranks 3rd in terms of national population, but that isn't saying much. Our proportionate share of the 6.8 billion world population is less than 5%.

China accounts for nearly 20% and India is just behind with 17% of the world's population. China and India, nearly 40% of the world's population, are just beginning to flex their demand for automobiles and gas. We need alternatives!

1
The Federal Railroad Administration reports railroad efficiency is up 106% since 1980. Where ~~it~~ available, Passenger rider ship has increased substantially over the past 30 years.



↑

The National Association of Railroad Passengers reports rail can save over 4.2 billion gallons of gas every year ~~by~~ moving America by rail rather than automobile. Passenger rail has nearly doubled its volume ~~from~~ ^{Since} 1980 but uses virtually the same ~~amount~~ ^{amount} of fuel.

In 2009 the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the nation's infrastructure a D. It's time to take immediate action to invest in infrastructure. Our infrastructure used to be the best – Countries in Europe and Russia invest more in their roads and railways than we do. China is building faster trains and newer airports. ~~And~~ Our own engineers gave ~~our nation's~~ ^{America's} infrastructure, a "D!"

Montana and America ~~need~~ ^{depends on} TOTAL Legislative and Congressional commitment to a well-developed passenger rail system.

Help us urge Congress to restore passenger rail to 6 of Montana's key cities.

VOTE YES FOR SJ 16 and please encourage your fellow legislators to do the same.

Our grandchildren will ride this train and you will be the ones they thank!

U.S. Infrastructure Report Card
 Grades from the ASCE



SEARCH

Building Up America

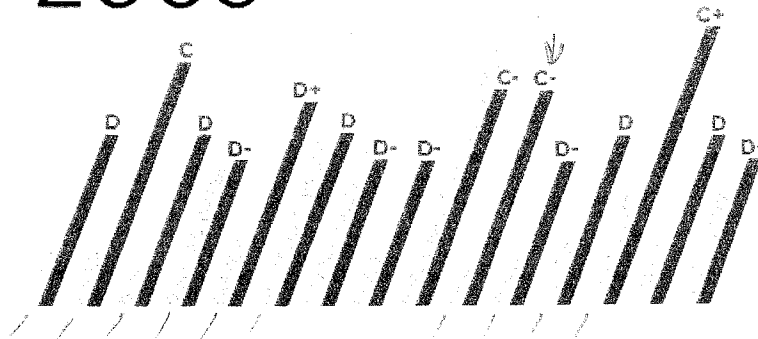
Bridges, roads, water: A U.S. 'report card'

U.S. infrastructure gets D minus from ASCE

U.S. infrastructure: Grades from the ASCE

Highest score: C+

2009



U.S. infrastructure

Grades over time | Top concerns by state, 2008

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Engineer group gives U.S. D-minus grades in five infrastructure categories

American Society of Civil Engineers represents civil engineers across the globe

The group periodically issues a report card analyzing U.S. infrastructure

The analysis includes categories such as bridges, dams, roads and drinking water

Five categories of U.S. infrastructure received a grade of D minus in 2009 from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The organization, which represents civil engineers across the globe, periodically issues a national report card analyzing an array of key elements of infrastructure.

The 2009 report, which is the most recent ranked U.S. levees, roads, wastewater, inland waterways & drinking water at a D minus.

The above interactive details the ASCE grades from 2009, 2005 and 2001.

Click on the U.S. map to see which infrastructure issues the ASCE said it is most concerned about in your state.

The state data is from a survey of ASCE state members conducted in September 2008.

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MON - FRI
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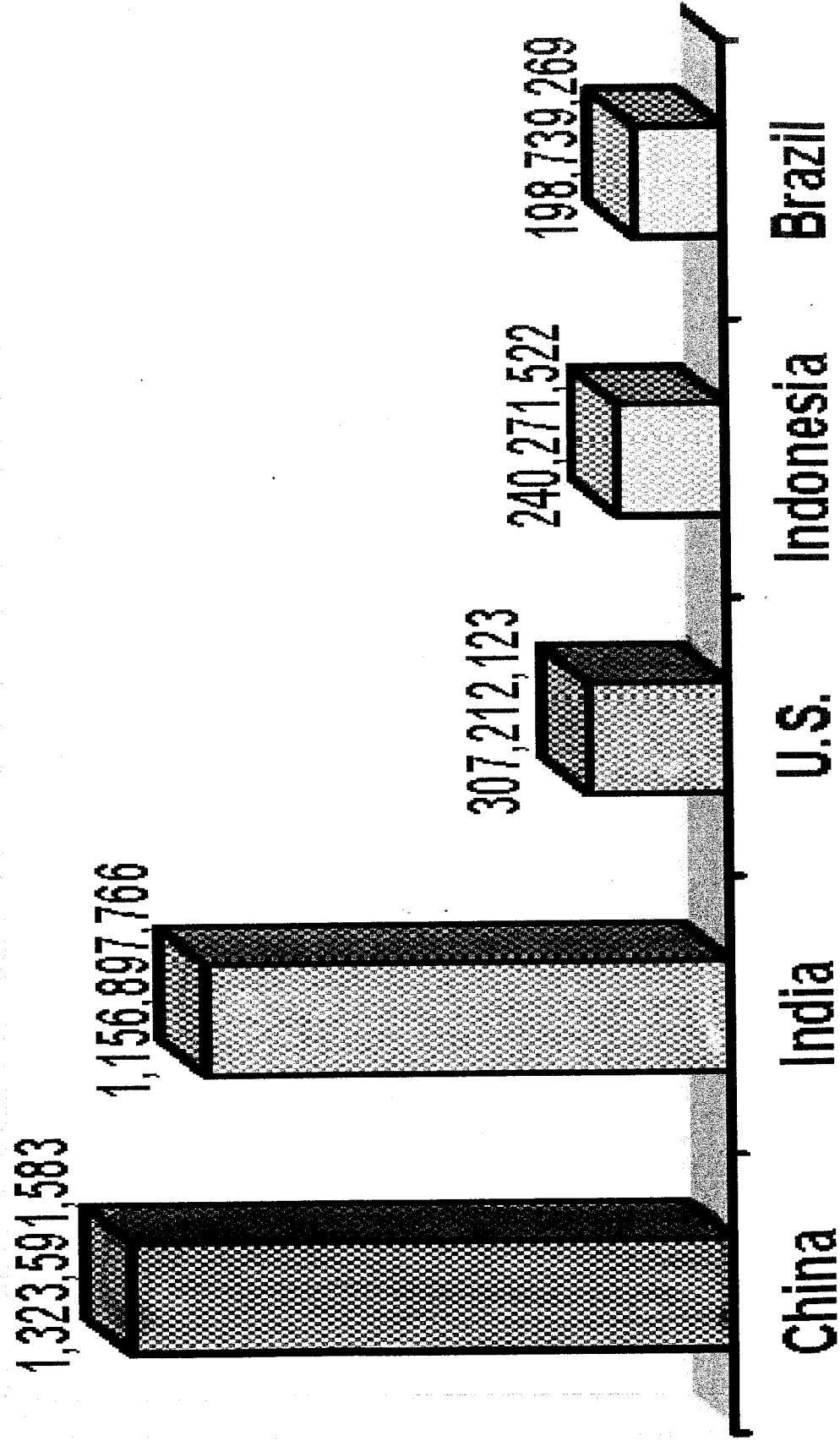
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EXHIBIT NO.

2

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3-22-2011

BILL NO.

3518

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